



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/053,012	01/18/2002	Douglas Morgan Freimuth	YOR920010561US2	2130

7590

11/02/2005

IBM CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPT.
P.O. BOX 218
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598

EXAMINER

AVELLINO, JOSEPH E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2143

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/053,012

Applicant(s)

FREIMUTH ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph E. Avellino

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-17 and 21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 18-20, 22 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-23 remain pending in this examination. Claims 15-17, and 21 remain withdrawn as being drawn to a nonelected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claim 3 recites the limitation "the application protocol" which lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-14, and 18-20, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Taylor et al. (USPN 6,728,885).

6. Referring to claim 1, Taylor discloses a method comprising differentiating at least one service class in a kernel to perform service differentiation based on content in at least one data packet, including the steps of:

capturing at least one data packet until a complete application header is detected (an inherent feature of capturing a packet at a NIC as disclosed in Taylor is that an application header is also captured) (col. 5, lines 30-32);

parsing said complete application header to determine at least one application tag (i.e. attribute information such as source and destination address which are contained in the application header) (col. 6, line 15-17);

matching said at least one application tag to at least one matching rule (col. 6, lines 32-37);

determining a presence of at least one match with said at least one matching rule (i.e. checking the relevant information on the SYN packet sent by DPF 207) (col. 6, lines 32-37; col. 10, line 57 to col. 11, line 10); and

performing service differentiation (i.e. discarding packet if determined not to allow connection or creating a new connection and applying the corresponding rule to any subsequent packets from that connection until the connection s disconnected) (col. 6, lines 61-65).

7. Referring to claim 2, Taylor discloses the application tag includes a request method (i.e. filter to all "telnet" packets) (col. 6, lines 28-30).

Art Unit: 2143

8. Referring to claim 3, it is an inherent feature in HTTP that the URI is the second string in the HTTP header, (the first string is the action word, such as GET POST HEAD SYN, etc.).

9. Referring to claim 4, Taylor discloses employing a table having at least one matching rule (col. 6, lines 53-57).

10. Referring to claim 5, Taylor discloses finding a best match (i.e. a rule which best fits the packet, such as the type of protocol used) (col. 6, lines 25-43).

11. Referring to claim 6, Taylor discloses service differentiation includes dropping (i.e. discarding a packet) (col. 6, lines 61-65).

12. Referring to claim 7, Taylor discloses dropping includes discarding a connection (i.e. do not allow a connection) (col. 6, lines 61-65).

13. Referring to claim 8, Taylor discloses said action includes protocol control (i.e. setting up a new connection (col. 6, lines 61-65).

14. Referring to claim 9, Taylor discloses installing at least one matching rule (col. 6, lines 44-57).

Art Unit: 2143

15. Referring to claims 10 and 11, Taylor discloses detecting establishment of a new TCP connection (col. 6, line 60 to col. 7, line 10).

16. Referring to claim 12, Taylor discloses the step of establishing a new TCP connection includes receiving a SYN packet, sending a SYN-ACK packet, deferring accept, receiving ACK for SYN-ACK and deferring notification of data packet (this is an inherent feature of the HTTP basic 3-way handshake for Connection synchronization which can be found in the Transmission Control Protocol DARPA Internet program Protocol Specification September 1981 prepared by Information Sciences Institute, USC, page. 31 Figure 7) (col. 5, lines 55-60).

17. Referring to claim 13, detecting application header delimiters for said data packet is an inherent feature of Taylor since without this detection step, the system would not know where the header starts and ends.

18. Claims 14, and 18-20, 22, and 23 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

Response to Amendment

19. The Office has considered the amendments to the claims and has withdrawn the rejection under 35 USC 101.

Response to Arguments

20. Applicant's arguments filed October 10, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

21. Applicant argues, in substance, that (1) Taylor is directed to providing multilevel security and does not address providing multiple levels of service for system performance to users.

22. As to point (1) Applicant is advised that broad interpretation is given to the term "service differentiation". Applicant has not argued any further defining embodiments of the term, nor does not apply any art to cite as to how this term is to be used in the claim. Therefore Applicant intends broad interpretation of the claim and the Office has interpreted as such. Applicant should understand that multiple levels of security as disclosed in Taylor *is* service differentiation, since differing levels of service are provided for each level of security (i.e. dropping packets but not others). Furthermore since the different levels of service is for system performance to users (i.e. the packets are destined to a user, and therefore allowing them to pass or dropping the packets inherently affects the system performance for the user) the system of Taylor satisfies the newly added limitation "provide different levels of service for system performance to users. By this rationale, the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

23. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

24. Applicant has had numerous opportunities to amend the claimed subject matter, and has failed to modify the claim language to distinguish over the prior art of record by clarifying or substantially narrowing the claim language. Thus, Applicant apparently intends that a broad interpretation be given to the claims and the Examiner has adopted such in the present and previous Office action rejections. See *In re Prater and Wei*, 162 USPQ 541 (CCPA 1969), and MPEP 2111.

25. Again, it is the Examiner's position that Applicant has not yet submitted claims drawn to limitations, which define the operation and apparatus of Applicant's disclosed invention in manner, which distinguishes over the prior art. As it is Applicant's right to

Art Unit: 2143

continue to claim as broadly as possible their invention. It is also the Examiner's right to continue to interpret the claim language as broadly as possible. It is the Examiner's position that the detailed functionality that allows for Applicant's invention to overcome the prior art used in the rejection, fails to differentiate in detail how these features are unique. As it is extremely well known in the networking art as already shown by Taylor and other prior arts of records disclosed. Thus, *it is clear that Applicant must submit amendments to the claims* in order to distinguish over the prior art use in the rejection that discloses different features of Applicant's claim invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph E. Avellino whose telephone number is (571) 272-3905. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00-4:00.

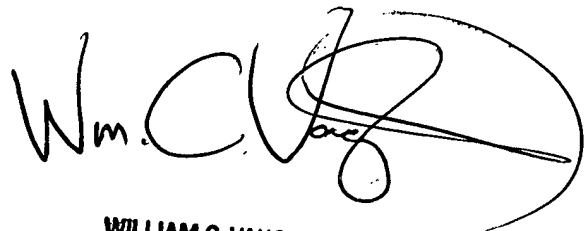
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2143

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature, possibly reading 'JEA', in black ink.

JEA
October 24, 2005

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wm. C. Vaughn, Jr.'.

**WILLIAM C. VAUGHN, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER**